

ERAA Travel Basketball Tryout Guide

2019 Basketball Tryouts

Tryouts can be a stressful time for players and parents. In an effort to minimize frustration and confusion, we have done our best to describe and outline the tryout process. In this guide, you will find information that may be helpful regarding what to do before the tryouts, what happens during tryouts and what to expect when the process is complete. Our best advice to parents is to tell your players to try their hardest but to relax and have fun too.

Basketball Tryouts – Before

Make sure to register. The deadline for registration for Travel Tryouts is Saturday, Aug 31. Here is the [Registration Link](#).

Travel tryout dates –

Players must attend both sessions unless they have prior approval from either (i) Boys Traveling Coordinator Chris Gunderson (chgunderson@hotmail.com) for male players; (ii) Director of ERAA Basketball Adam Meuler (ajmeuler@gmail.com) for female players.

All Traveling Basketball Tryouts will take place at East Ridge High School.

Date	Time Slot	Tryout Group
September 4	6:30-8:00	6th & 8th Grade Girls
	8:15-9:45	5th Grade Boys
September 5	6:30-8:00	5th Grade Boys
	8:15-9:45	6th & 8th Grade Girls
September 11	6:30-8:00	4th Grade Girls
	8:15-9:45	5th & 7th Grade Girls
September 12	6:30-8:00	4th Grade Girls
	8:15-9:45	5th & 7th Grade Girls
September 16	6:30-8:00	3rd & 4th Grade Boys
	8:15-9:45	7th Grade Boys
September 17	6:30-8:00	3rd & 4th Grade Boys
	8:15-9:45	7th Grade Boys
September 18	6:30-8:00	6th Grade Boys
	8:15-9:45	8th Grade Boys
September 19	6:30-8:00	6th Grade Boys
	8:15-9:45	8th Grade Boys

We have communicated with the boards for other ERAA sports and have done our best to avoid conflicts with other events. We will work to resolve any conflicts that do arise on a case-by-case basis. Be sure to mark your calendars for your players' evaluation time!

What should players and families expect?

All players who want to play on an ERAA Travel Team will be required to attend both tryout sessions. Exceptions will only be granted with the prior authorization of either (i) Boys Traveling Coordinator Chris Gunderson (chgunderson@hotmail.com) for male players; (ii) Director of ERAA Basketball Adam Meuler (ajmeuler@gmail.com) for female players. Travel tryouts will take place over a two-day period in which players will be run through a variety of basketball

drills and scrimmages. Independent evaluators with a deep understanding of the game and the fundamentals required of successful players and teams will be used at all sessions. The program's goal is to be impartial, professional, and as fair as possible by placing players based on skill level, ability, attitude, and athleticism.

ERAA is planning to field boys teams in grades 3-8 and girls teams in grades 4-8. The exact numbers of teams and players per team (typically 8-10) will depend on both the number of players who sign up for travel basketball, and the results of tryouts. The ERAA Basketball program will strive to maximize the number of players who are able to participate in the travel program at each grade level. However, it is still possible that some players participating in tryouts will not be placed on a travel team. The primary reasons for not being placed on a travel team are:

- A player is not able to demonstrate a 'travel-ready' proficiency in the game of basketball. **'Travel-ready' proficiency will be determined by evaluators selected by the ERAA Basketball board, in consultation with the Traveling Coordinator.** If a player is not considered 'travel-ready,' we will recommend that player participate in our In-House program. We believe that the In-House program will provide such players a better opportunity to enjoy the game of basketball and to develop their basketball skills.
- The number of potential players is not readily divided into 8-10 players per team, which is the target for ERAA teams.

Any players who are not placed on a travel team would be eligible to play on an In-House team.

What do we do if our player is too sick or injured to participate in tryouts?

If a player is unable to participate due to illness or injury the parent or guardian of the player must contact the ERAA Director of Basketball, Adam Meuler (ajmeuler@gmail.com), BEFORE the first tryout session. Players who have registered for tryouts and are not able participate will be excused for that illness or injury upon submitting a doctor's note describing the player's limitations. The placement of players who are unable to participate will be determined on a case-by-case basis. See the Program Guidelines for more details.

Basketball Tryouts – During

What do I need to know about the day of tryouts?

You should arrive 15-30 minutes prior to the first session as the player will need to check in and get uniform sizing information.

All players should wear shorts, t-shirts and basketball shoes. Players SHOULD NOT wear uniforms from previous years or t-shirts with their names on them. A numbered “pinnie” will be provided upon check-in. Once checked in, players may need to wait in the hallway before their session begins. Please ask them to be patient.

Tryouts are closed to parents. The evaluators and players need to focus on the task at hand. Having spectators is distracting to all parties. It is important that we let them do the job they came to do. Parents that do not respect this rule may cause their player to be removed from the process. ERAA thanks you in advance for your cooperation. *The only spectators who will be allowed in the gym are the coaching candidates for that grade.* These coaching candidates may observe quietly from the track above the basketball courts.

How will players be evaluated?

Your player is **required to attend BOTH tryouts sessions** for his or her grade level.

Independent evaluators will score the athletes based on how they perform in individual skills, basketball drills, and team scrimmage situations. On Day 1 players will participate in a set of drills designed to assess their individual skill level. These individual drills will be followed by a small number of scrimmages. On Day 2 players will again participate in drills and can expect to be divided into groups for scrimmaging. A larger fraction of time will be dedicated to scrimmaging on Day 2.

Players will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Shooting - Form, mechanics, lay-ups, range, accuracy, catch and shoot.

Dribbling – Ability to use both hands see floor while dribbling, dribble under pressure, protect ball, speed, change of direction.

Passing - Form, velocity, control, proper passing and catching of passes.

Defense – (viewed via 1 on 1, 3 on 3 half-court, and 5 on 5 full-court) – On the ball defense, help defense, footwork, stance, positioning, close out, aggressiveness without fouling, anticipation, deny defense, hustles back on defense, blocking out, blocking shots, rebounding.

Offense – Good decisions, court vision, passes to open player, triple threat position, shooting, faking, ball handling, penetration, scoring, off the ball v-cuts, moves without the ball, sets picks, rolls the proper way.

Intangibles – Positive attitude, hustles, plays hard, speed, quickness, team play, strength, size.

We are working to schedule Pre-Tryout Clinics which will provide previews of drills used during tryouts. There will be no cost for these clinics. Details forthcoming.

Each player's overall evaluation rating will be determined from their performance in these basketball drills and scrimmage situations. These ratings are the predominant factor used in making team selections.

Team Placement

- ERAA will strive to have each traveling team comprise 8-10 players. The number on each team will depend on the total number of players who are rated as 'travel-ready' by the evaluators, and on the number of players considered ready to succeed at each competition level (A,B, or C). For example, if we have 30 players at a grade we will not automatically make 3 teams of 10 players.
- The ERAA Basketball Director and the appropriate gender Traveling Coordinator will oversee the team selection process. If either of these individuals has a child participating in a certain grade, that board member will recuse himself or herself from the team selection room until after the child is placed on a team. Exception: if the Basketball Director or Traveling Coordinator is the coach of the team, they are allowed to participate in the team selection process.
- The top 5 players as determined by the evaluators are automatically placed on the A team.
- The Coach Selection Committee will then name the coach of the A team. If a coaching candidate is affiliated with a player, that player needs to be ranked 1-12 in order for the coach to be considered as a candidate for coaching the A team. Typically "affiliated" means the son or daughter of the coaching candidate, but it could also be another relative or family friend. If the player affiliated with the head coach is ranked 6-12, that player will be added to the A team, along with the players ranked 1-5.
- The A team coach will select players to fill out the roster. The coach must make his/her selections from amongst players ranked in the top 12. The total number of players on the A team will generally be 8-10, and will be determined by the ERAA Traveling Coordinator in consultation with the Evaluators.
- Following selection of the A team, the next 5 highest rated players will be automatically placed on the B team. The B coach is then selected by the Coach Selection Committee. If the coach is affiliated with a player, that player needs to be ranked amongst the top 12 remaining players in order for the coach to be considered as a candidate for coaching the B team. The B coach then selects players to fill out the B team roster, using a process analogous to what is described above for the A team.
- The aforementioned player and coach selection process will continue until all A, B, and C rosters are filled. If there is no coach for a team at the time of team selection, the

Traveling Coordinator will work with the Evaluators to select a team, using the rankings and positional considerations. Note that when ERAA Basketball fields multiple teams at a given level (e.g., 2 C teams), we reserve the right to divide up the players within the level as we see fit. Typically, we would field either: (i) a 'high' and a 'low' team, formed by following the team selection procedure outlined above, or; (ii) two approximately equal teams.

- **Policy for twins/ siblings in the same grade.** The ERAA Basketball board believes that siblings in the same grade should be treated in the same manner as siblings in different grades. Namely, each sibling is evaluated and treated as an individual. Siblings in the same grade will not automatically be placed on the same team. The ERAA Basketball board believes this policy is the fairest to all participants in the travel program.
- **Policy on 'playing up' to a higher grade.** 4th-7th grade athletes attempting to 'play up' to a higher grade need to obtain, via email, the approval of the ERAA Basketball Director and the appropriate gender ERAA Basketball Traveling Coordinator at least 2 weeks prior to tryouts in order to be eligible to try out for the higher grade level.
- **Eligibility for 'playing up' on Boys 4th-8th grade and Girls 5th-8th grade teams.** Players may only 'play up' on a higher grade's A team if the player is ranked amongst the top 3 players at the higher grade level, as determined by the Evaluators. Players ranked outside the top 3 would be placed at their current grade level. Players interested in playing up should attend both the tryout session for their own grade, and the session for the higher grade.
- **Eligibility for 'playing up' on Boys 3rd Grade Team.** Since there is not a 2nd grade boys travel team, this 'playing up' policy differs from the policy for the boys 4th-8th grade teams.

If we field Boys 3rd grade team. A 2nd grade or younger player who rates amongst the top 3 players will automatically be placed on the 3rd grade travel team. A 2nd grade or younger player who is rated as 'travel-ready', but not in the top 3, may play on the 3rd grade travel team provided that the younger player is NOT displacing a 'travel-ready' 3rd grader. For example, if there are 11 'travel-ready' players, and the only 2nd grader is rated 8th, a 3rd grade player will not be cut to place a 2nd grader on the team.

If we do NOT field Boys 3rd grade team. This situation would apply if we did not have enough 'travel-ready' 3rd grade players to form a team. A 3rd grade or younger player is eligible to play on a 4th grade travel team if the player is rated as 'travel-ready' provided that the younger player is NOT causing a 'travel-ready' 4th grader to be redirected to the in-house program. Note that the younger player is only eligible for the 4A team if he rates in the top 3. Younger players rated below #3 would be placed on the B or C team as per their ranking.

- **Eligibility for ‘playing up’ on Girls 4th grade team.** Since there is no 3rd grade travel team, this ‘playing up’ policy differs from the policy for the 5th-8th grade teams. A 3rd grade or younger player who rates amongst the top 3 players will automatically be placed on the 4th grade travel team. A 3rd grade or younger player who is rated as ‘travel-ready’ but not in the top 3 may play on the 4th grade travel team, provided that younger player is NOT causing a ‘travel-ready’ 4th grader to be redirected to the in-house program. For example, if there are 11 ‘travel-ready’ players, and the only 3rd grader is rated 8th, a 4th grade player will not be cut to place a 3rd grader on the team.

Basketball Tryouts – After

Upon the completion of tryouts and team selection, team rosters will be posted on the ERAA basketball web site as soon as possible. Typically rosters will appear on the website within 3-4 days of the completion of the tryouts. We will not answer any questions regarding the placement of players on teams for 48 hours following the announcement of team rosters.

What if I have questions about the process?

Questions or concerns about the tryout process should be directed to Boys Traveling Coordinator Chris Gunderson (chgunderson@hotmail.com) or ERAA Director of Basketball Adam Meuler (ajmeuler@gmail.com). Please do not raise questions directly to the travel coaches or evaluators.

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what the parent or the player had expected. However, selections will be made in accordance with the ERAA tryout policy and are final.

What if we don’t accept this placement?

If you turn down your travel team position, you will not receive a refund of your registration fees, and you will not be allowed to transfer to the In-House program. Such transfers are disruptive and unfair to the team you were placed on. Earning a spot on an ERAA Travel Basketball team is a privilege that unfortunately not everyone is awarded.

What if my son or daughter is not selected for an ERAA travel team?

Players who are not selected to play travel basketball will be eligible to play in the In-House leagues. If the player opts to play in the In-House league, the difference in program fees will be refunded.

Thank you for being involved in our basketball community. Please contact us with any questions you may have.